

Gathering Song: *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus*

Mar-a - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu ia!

Mar-a - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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Penitential Rite:

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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Responsorial Psalm: *Advent Responsorial*

My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In his light I shall be saved. My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In His love I'll find peace.

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Gospel Acclamation: *Watson Alleluia*

Preparation of Gifts: *Ready the Way* **BB#63**

Here is your God! Com-ing with your vin - di - ca - tion.

Look and be - hold the sav - ing po - wer of God!

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Mass: *May We Be One*
(Mass card is in the pew pocket)

Communion Song: *The King Shall Come* **BB#70**

Closing Song: *Emmanuel* **BB#58**
Refrain: Come, come, Emmanuel! Son of God, appear.
Heaven and earth rejoice! Salvation is drawing near, salvation is drawing near.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has annointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings.

REJOICE, FOR THE LORD IS NEAR!

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St. Leo Catholic Church
Website: www.stleosonoma.org



Mass Times

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m. Spanish
9:30 a.m. English
11:30 a.m. Spanish

Confession: 4:30 p.m., Saturdays
6:30 p.m., Wednesdays

Our website: www.stleosonoma.org

Weekday Mass:
8:30 a.m. M, W – F (no Mass on Tuesday)
7:00 p.m. – Wed. – Spanish Mass

✠ Sacraments ✠
Baptisms and Weddings
Call the office, (707) 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS: Dec. 14th – Dec. 22nd

Sat. 14 5:00 p.m. Charles Canevari †
and Raymond J. Mapa †
Sun. 15 9:30 a.m. Deceased members of the
Byrne, Lynch & Boyle families †
Mon. 16 8:30 a.m. Raymond J. Mapa †
Tues. 17 **NO MASS**
Wed. 18 8:30 a.m. Joan Polan †
Thurs. 19 8:30 a.m. Michelle Lage †
and Arsinia Jumalon, Healing
Friday 20 8:30 a.m. Jean Weiner †
and Raymond Mapa †
Sat. 21 5:00 p.m. Dorothy & Erwin Tompkins †
Sun. 22 9:30 a.m. Claire Melanephy †

FISCAL LOG: December 7 / 8

Sunday Collection: \$3,790.

NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE
123 Parishioners pledged: \$117,319.38 81%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 14/15 2nd Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious
Dec 17 Parish Christmas Dinner, 6PM
Dec 25 Christmas

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for December

Marcella Murphy
&
Frederick Welch



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – Retirement Fund for Religious. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER: If still available, members of our Men's Club will be selling tickets for our Annual Christmas Dinner after 5p.m. and 9:30a.m. Masses this weekend. The date for the dinner is Tuesday, December 17th.

COFFEE AND DONUTS THIS WEEKEND: Come enjoy some company and a cup of coffee!

TOYS FOR RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS: It's that time of the year that we ask for unwrapped gifts for our R.E. kids, ages 7 to 12. Items can be dropped at the office or in the box at the entrance of church.

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORIAM: The St. Leo's Ladies Guild invites you to join in their fundraiser that helps to decorate our church for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Please PRINT the name(s) of those you wish to be remembered and send your request and donation of \$10 to St. Leo's Church, Attn. Michelle Levesque, PO Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, Ca 95476.

ADORATION DURING ADVENT: During the season of Advent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be every Friday following the morning Mass.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Vigil of Christmas – Tuesday, December 24th

4PM Children's Mass in English
6:30PM Posada
7PM en Español
9PM English

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th

8AM en Español
9:30AM English
11:30AM en Español



SATURDAY CONFESSION OFFERED: Fr. Jojo is available to hear confessions in the church on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Use the confessional to your left when entering the church.

Advent-Adventure

We are currently in the season we call Advent. The word comes from the Latin language and means in English *arrival*, specifically the season of Christ's arrival, Christ's birth into our world. It also refers to the next time Christ comes – his arrival at the end of the world.

It comes across as a period of waiting on our part – other than our fasting and doing penitence for our sins, cleaning up our act so as to be worthy of such an arrival. It's like the plight of the characters Vladimir and Estragon in Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot* – who never comes. Even when a boy approaches with a message from Godot that while he will not come this evening he'll surely come tomorrow, they can't be sure. At last they decide to wait no longer but then the first act ends with: *They do not move*. Perpetual passivity.

But there is another way of reading the word Advent – for from the same Latin word we derive the word *adventure* – which is hardly a passive word. Adventure means movement, not waiting around. It means going forth to meet something, to find, to experience something that entails great risks – like sailing west in search of Asia and finding – surprise – America – or for that matter, like getting married.

Our Advent readings present us with much that underscores the season as a summons to adventure, movement, crossing the line into the unknown. There's Mary, for instance, made pregnant by the Holy Spirit. No matter whether you read that as an actual fact, a miracle (which the Church has for centuries) or as a way of portraying Mary as the Jewish people pregnant with the world's Messiah - or as both; her pregnancy certainly takes her out of her anonymity into the whole course of world history such as she could never have imagined – including her cult as Our Lady of Guadalupe. From relative quiet to a sword piercing her heart – releasing so much grace.

Joseph at first regrets engaging with her after finding her already pregnant. He just wants to back out of the story – back into nowhere and being nobody - passivity, normality – until the angel says – “Hey, I don't care how old you are, whether you are ready to retire; an adventure awaits you, your involvement. Get moving. Step into the role assigned to you.”

Then think of the Magi, stargazers from the East. Advent, leading up to their discovery of a child more royal than King Herod, is sheer adventure - sidestepping danger, trusting in a star. And look at the boy Jesus himself. Sure he starts out in a manger *asleep in the hay*, but it's not long before his family, thanks to his presence, is catching a bus to Egypt to escape their murder. And look at him at twelve, giving his parents fits by staying behind in Jerusalem to question the priests of the Temple – setting him up in their memories as somebody they will have to deal with someday. Go back to Nazareth?? That's not what he was born to do – he felt called to save the world, not hole up in some backwater village, safe and sound. Adventure! That's what Advent and Christmas are – a call to adventure – to opening the 365 windows of your 2017 “Adventure Calendar” to find a new insight, a new calling everyday of your life.

Geoff Wood

(Reprint 12/11/2016)